

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/729,950	KODAMA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Charles Kyle	3624	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 6, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-8,10,11,13 and 14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>August 12, 2005</u></li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____.</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.</li> </ol> |
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***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-14 are allowed.

The following is a statement of the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance.

Each of the independent claims recites that within an electronic purchase system or method a permission flag is updated to reject trades with restricted purchasers when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold and that when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog, a publication unit accesses a storage unit to generate first information corresponding to the offered commodity, extracts second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information, generates from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser, and provides the third information to the prospective purchaser. See Figure 12 of the drawings.

The Munday reference is cited for its teachings on preferred supplier/buyer relationships.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Kyle whose telephone number is (571) 272-6746. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 3:00.

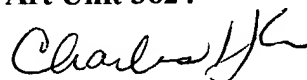
Art Unit: 3624

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

crk  
December 6, 2005

**Primary Examiner**  
**Charles Kyle**  
**Art Unit 3624**



***Examiner's Amendment***

The following amendments to the claims are made based on authorization by Richard

Gollhofer in a telephone call on December 6, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (previously presented) An electronic purchase system for providing a site where a plurality of sellers and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about commodities that the sellers offer, the sales-related information defining for each commodity that at least one seller offers, at least one target purchaser of each of the at least one seller and respective sales conditions;

a purchaser registration unit registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether each seller permits a trade therewith;

a publication unit making the sales-related information for each commodity public to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the at least one seller of the commodity permits the trade therewith; and

a management unit recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers and updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold,

wherein when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog, said publication unit accesses said storage unit to generate first information corresponding to the offered commodity, extracts second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information, generates from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser, and provides the third information to the prospective purchaser.

2. (previously presented) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the sales-related information is selected for each purchaser company by each seller.

Art Unit: 3624

3. (previously presented) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein information registered in said purchaser registration unit is updated based on a trade between each seller and each purchaser.

Claims 4 and 5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually selected for at least one of the purchasers and a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

a management unit recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers and updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold; and

a publication unit making public the sales-related information to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith,

wherein when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog, said publication unit accesses said storage unit to generate first information corresponding to the offered commodity, extracts second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information, generates from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser, and provides the third information to the prospective purchaser.

7. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 6, wherein the sales-related information is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.

8. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

Art Unit: 3624

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith, according to an instruction from the seller;

making public the sales-related information to any of the registered purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold,

generating first information corresponding to the offered commodity, when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog;

extracting second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information;

generating from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser; and

providing the third information to the prospective purchaser.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually selected for at least one of the purchasers;

registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and

updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold;

generating first information corresponding to the offered commodity, when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog;

Art Unit: 3624

extracting second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information;

generating from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser; and  
providing the third information to the prospective purchaser; and

making public the sales-related information to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

11. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;  
receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;  
registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the purchasers, whether the seller permits a trade therewith, according to an instruction from the seller; and  
making public the sales-related information to any of the registered purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith;

recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers; and  
updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold,

generating first information corresponding to the offered commodity, when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog;

extracting second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information;

generating from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser; and  
providing the third information to the prospective purchaser.

12. (cancelled)

Art Unit: 3624

13. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer to perform a method comprising:

- providing a site where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;
- receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually selected for at least one of the purchasers from the seller; and
- registering a permission flag indicating, for each of the at least one purchaser, whether the seller permits a trade therewith;
- recording a trade amount for each of the purchasers;
- updating the permission flag to reject trades with each restricted purchaser when the trade amount corresponding thereto for a past period is less than a predetermined threshold;
- generating first information corresponding to the offered commodity, when a prospective purchaser selects an offered commodity from an electronic catalog;
- extracting second information corresponding to the prospective purchaser from the first information;
- generating from the second information third information corresponding to each seller for which the permission flag indicates permission to trade with the prospective purchaser; and
- providing the third information to the prospective purchaser; and
- making public the sales-related information to any of the purchasers only if the permission flag corresponding to each information receiving purchaser indicates that the seller permits the trade therewith.

14. (previously presented) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic purchase system further comprises a discount unit discounting a trade price for a current trade if a total or average trade amount of at least one purchaser for a past specific period for at least one of the sellers exceeds a specific value, when the at least one purchaser purchases a commodity from the seller.

Claims 15 and 16 (cancelled).